

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02

INR-10 EB-08 H-01 CPR-03 PA-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00

/091 W

-----074138 222339Z /75

R 211630Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0249

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EIND, MR, PDIP, PINR, PINT, SHUM, UNGA

SUBJECT: NEW DIRECTION OF THE MAURITANIA'S FOREIGN MINISTRY

REF: (A) STATE 204786 (B) NOUAKCHOTT 2420 (C) STATE 195124

(D) STATE 209038

1. SUMMARY: AHMED OULD JIDDOU, THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT OF MAURITANIA'S (GIRM) FOREIGN MINISTRY TOOK THE OCCASION OF MY CALL TO PRESENT THE AIDE MEMOIRE REGARDING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM (STATE 204786) TO BRING ME UP TO DATE ON FONMIN ACTIVITY AS IT AFFECTS RELATIONS WITH USG.

2. AIDE MEMOIRE ON RACISM: HE LISTENED TO MY PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTED THE NOTE WITHOUT COMMENT.

3. L'AFFAIRE KOCHMAN: HE STATED THAT THE GIRM WANTED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT USG HAD THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF
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MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR TO US, NASSIM KOCHMAN'S RECALL AND SHOWED ME THE TELEGRAM DATED JULY 4, 1978, DRAFTED BY MOHAMMED SIDI ALI (THE THEN SEC'Y GEN'L OF THE FON MIN) TELLING KOCHMAN THAT HE WAS BEING RECALLED AND THAT HE SHOULD TURN THE MISSION OVER TO CHARGE MOCTAR OULD WAYE IMMEDIATELY JC SBID HIS FAREWELLS WITHOUT DELAY. THE RESULTS OF AN INSPECTION WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED AFTER THE JULY 10 COUP MERELY SERVED

TO REINFORCE A DECISION ALREADY TAKEN. ACCORDING TO JIDDOU, OULD DADDAH'S PRINCIPAL REASON FOR FIRING KOCHMAN WAS WHAT THE LATTER WAS MAKING UNAUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE GIRM. HE SAID THAT A TELEGRAM CANCELLING KOCHMAN'S DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT WAS IN THE TYPEWRITER. THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT KOCHMAN WILL REMAIN IN THE USA AND SEEK US CITIZENSHIP. MEANWHILE HE CAN RETAIN HIS MAURITANIAN CITIZENSHIP PROVIDED THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE CLAIM TO ANOTHER NATIONALITY. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF BRINGING CHARGES AGAINST HIM.

4. NEW AMBASSADOR TO US: JIDDOU GAVE IMPRESSION THAT NEW AMBASSADOR TO US HAS BEEN SELECTED AND THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE SOUGHT VERY SHORTLY. GRIM WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ITS NEW ENVOY IN PLACE BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE 33RD UNGA. HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER THE NAME.

5. ASST SECY MOOSE OFFER TO MEET WITH GIRM FON MIN LAGHDAF DURING 33RD UNGA. (STATE 195124); JIDDOU SAID THAT ONE OF HIS PRIORITY TASKS IS TO DRAFT A REPLY FROM LAGHDAF EXPRESSING HIS PLEASURE AT THE PROSPECTS OF EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH MR. MOOSE.

6. GIRM REPRESENTATION AT 33RD UNGA: HE CONFIRMED WHAT WE REPORTED IN NOUAKCHOTT 2420 THAT HEAD OF STATE LT COL SALECK DOES NOT PLAN TO ATTEND UNGA.
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7. USG ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ASSISTANCE TO GIRM: JIDDOU TOLD ME THAT FON MIN LAGHDAF INSTRUCTED HIM TO ALERT ME TO A FORMAL COMMUNICATION, BEING DRAFTED, IN WHICH THE GIRM WILL ASK FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC (HE SAID FINANCIAL) ASSISTANCE AND A QUOTE SPECIAL EFFORT END QUOTE ON THE PART OF USG TO SUPPORT GIRM'S EFFORTS TO DISENGAGE ITSELF FROM THE SAHARA CONFLICT.

8. US BUILT SUGAR REFINERY: HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN FIRM (PRITCHARD), THAT BUILT THE STILL IDLE SUGAR REFINERY, WERE HOLDING SERIOUS TALKS WITH THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY. HE ADDED THAT, AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, THE MATTER DID NOT HAVE THE DEGREE OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE ASCRIBED TO IT BY THE PREVIOUS REGIME, BUT THAT FAILURE ON PRITCHARD'S PART TO BRING THE PLANT ON STREAM SOON WOULD BE A BLACK EYE TO THE MUCH CELEBRATED AMERICAN KNOW-HOW AND TECHNOLOGY.

9. JIDDOU WHOSE CREDENTIALS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN THOSE OF HIS PREDECESSOR, (WHO WAS IN EFFECT A PGPRIVATE SECRETARY AND NOTE TAKER FOR FORMER FON MIN

MOUKNASS,) WAS OBVIOUSLY BROUGHT IN TO MANAGE THE MINISTRY
SUBSTANTIVELY AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATIVELY. A CAREER CIVIL
SERVANT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF MAURITANIA'S INDEPEN-
DENCE, HE HAS HELD IMPORTANT JOBS IN THE PRESIDENCY, THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MINISTRY OF LABOR, IN ADDITION TO
SERVING AS GIRM'S AMBASSADOR TO TUNISIA, FRANCE AND
MOROCCO. HE SHRUGGED OFF MY CONGRATULATIONS-ON-HIS-NEW-
ASSIGNMENT BY STATING THAT THIS APPOINTMENT WAS NOT WHAT
HE CONSIDERED TO BE A PROMOTION. HE IS WELL AND
FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY AND SEEMS PRO-AMERICAN. HE
VISITED THE USA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BETWEEN 1960 TO 1965
AS MEMBER OF GIRM DELEGATION TO UNGA AND AS AN INTERNATIONAL
VISITOR GRANTEE IN LATE 1972. KRYZA

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DISSIMINATION COORDINATED WITH SS/O PER MS. KENNEDY.

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